

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 EB-08 COME-00 AGRE-00

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R 091211Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4022

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SPOP, GH

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR'S ROLE IN DEALING WITH PRESSING GLOBAL
PROBLEMS--POPULATION GROWTH AND ADEQUATE FOOD
PRODUCTION

REF: STATE 107370

1. SUMMARY: I TOOK ADVANTAGE OF CALL ON HEAD OF STATE AND
CHAIRMAN OF THE SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL GENERAL
I.K. ACHEAMPONG ON JUNE 6 TO CALL HIS ATTENTION TO
THE NEED FOR GHANA TO DEAL MORE EFFECTIVELY WITH
POPULATION AND FOOD PROBLEMS ALONG LINES DESCRIBED
REFTEL. NOTING THAT GHANA'S POPULATION WAS GROWING
BY 3.3 PERCENT EACH YEAR, ONE OF THE HIGHEST RATES IN
THE WORLD, I TOLD ACHEAMPONG THAT IF THIS RATE
CONTINUES (IT IS NOW ACCELERATING) GHANA'S POPULATION
WILL DOUBLE IN ONLY 22 YEARS. I ALSO STRESSED GHANA'S
CURRENT DEPENDENCE ON FOOD IMPORTS, THE ENORMOUS
PROBLEMS THE GOG WILL FACE IN EDUCATING ITS
BURGEONING POPULATION IN COMING YEARS AND THE PRESSING
NEED TO MODERATE THE HIGHT FERTILITY IF IMPROVEMENTS
IN THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF ITS CITIZENS
MADE. END SUMMARY
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2. I CONGRATULATED ACHEAMPONG ON HAVING ONE OF THE
MOST PROGRESSIVE POPULATION POLICIES IN SUB-
SAHARAN AFRICA AND STRESSED THE POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION
TO GHANA'S DEVELOPMENT THAT COULD RESULT FROM A
REDUCED POPULATION GROWTH RATE. UNFORTUNATELY, HOWEVER
EFFECTIVE THE POPULATION POLICY IS ON PAPER, IT HAS

NOT YET BEEN IMPLEMENTED WITH SUFFICIENT PRIORITY TO HAVE A REAL IMPACT. OUR EXPERIENCE HAD SHOWN THAT STRONG GOVERNMENT ACTION CAN IN FACT HELP BRING DOWN BIRTH RATES IF STRONG VISIBLE SUPPORT FROM THE COUNTRY'S TOP LEADERS IS FORTHCOMING AND THE POPULATION AT LARGE IS EDUCATED ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF SMALLER FAMILIES TO THE INDIVIDUAL, THE FAMILY AND THE NATION.

3. I LEFT THE CHAIRMAN A BRIEFING PAPER AND TOLD HIM I INTENDED TO DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT IN MORE DETAIL WITH COMMISSIONER FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING ABBEY IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. I ADDED THAT WE STOOD READY TO SUPPORT GHANA'S EFFORTS TO BRING THE POPULATION GROWTH RATE IN BALANCE WITH FOOD PRODUCTION, SCHOOLS AND JOBS AND LOOKED FORWARD TO WORKING CLOSELY WITH HIS OFFICIALS IN THIS AREA.

4. ACHEAMPONG THANKED ME FOR MY PRESENTATION, SAID HE ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE PROGRAM AND RECOGNIZED THAT UNLESS THE GROWTH RATE WERE ARRESTED, ALL HIS EFFORTS AT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN GHANA WOULD SIMPLY DISAPPEAR. HE ENCOURAGED ME TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM IN MORE DETAIL WITH COMMISSIONER ABBEY AND URGED ME TO COME DIRECTLY TO HIM FOR SUPPORT SHOULD I NEED IT. IN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MEANTIME, HE WOULD EMPHASIZE TO HIS OWN SENIOR OFFICIALS THE IMPORTANCE HE ATTACHED TO THE PROGRAM.

5. USAID DIRECTOR WILL FOLLOW UP WITH MEETINGS WITH THE COMMISSIONERS FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING AND HEALTH TO DISCUSS POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES BESETTING THE POPULATION/FAMILY PLANNING EFFORTS. THE ABOVE DISCUSSIONS WILL SEEK CLARIFICATION OF GOG INTENTIONS AND STRATEGY TO IMPROVE THIS PROGRAM AREA. USAID PLANNING IN-DEPTH EVALUATION OF GHANA'S PROGRAM AND AID ASSISTANCE TO DATE FOLLOWED BY JOINT AID/GOG DEVELOPMENT OF POPULATION ASSISTANCE STRATEGY STATEMENT.

6. WE WILL REPORT SEPARATELY OUR DIALOGUE WITH COMMISSIONER ABBEY ON THIS SUBJECT. SMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: PRODUCTION, POPULATION GROWTH RATE, FOODS
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Draft Date: 09 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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TAGS: SPOP, EAGR, GH
To: STATE
Type: TE
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